

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter Auditorium

101 8th Street, Oakland, California

March 7, 2007

Members Present

Jose Cisneros, Treasurer, City and County of San Francisco
Pat Eklund, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Novato
Daniel Furtado, Vice Mayor, City of Campbell
Mark Green, Mayor, Chair of RPC, City of Union City
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Jean Hart, Deputy Director, Alameda County CMA
Stana Hearne, Bay Area League of Women Voters
Kasie Hildenbrand, Councilmember, City of Dublin
John Holtzclaw, Sierra Club
Jake Mackenzie, Councilmember, City of Rohnert Park
Andrew Michael, Vice President, Bay Area Council
Nate Miley, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Mike Moore, Community Dev. Director, BAPDA
Dena Mossar, Councilmember, City of Palo Alto
Julie Pierce, Councilmember, City of Clayton
Gwen Regalia, Councilmember, City of Walnut Creek
Mark Ross, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Pixie Hayward Schickele, California Teachers Association
Tom Steinbach, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance

Members Absent

Susan Adams, Supervisor, County of Marin
Irma Anderson, Mayor, City of Richmond
Len Augustine, Mayor, City of Vacaville
Shiloh Ballard, Director, Housing and Community Development, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Valerie Brown, Supervisor, Sonoma County
David Cortese, Councilmember, City of San Jose
Diane Dillon, Supervisor, County of Napa
Juliet Ellis, Executive Director, Urban Habitat
Rose Jacobs Gibson, Supervisor, County of San Mateo
Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor, City of Pleasanton
Nicholas Jellins, Mayor, City of Menlo Park
Pete McHugh, Supervisor, County of Santa Clara
Cynthia Murray, Supervisor, County of Marin
Nancy Nadel, Councilmember, City of Oakland
Joseph Perkins, CEO, Home Builders Association of Northern California
Mary Nejedly Piepho, Supervisor, County of Contra Costa
Carol Severin, Director, East Bay Regional Park District
Dianne Spaulding, (Geeta Rao) Executive Director, Nonprofit Housing of Northern California
Jim Spering, Supervisor, County of Solano
John Vasquez, Supervisor, County of Solano
Mary Warren, Board Member, Regional Water Quality Control Board

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Staff Present

Kenneth Kirkey, Planning Director
Jaqueline Guzman, Regional Planner
Ted Droetboom, JPC
Felila Toleafoa, Administrative Secretary

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Mark Green called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM. A quorum was not present.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes for Meetings on August 2, 2006 and October 4, 2006.

Minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

4. Oral Reports/Comments

A. Committee Members

Jake Mackenzie: Announced, as a member of the Bay Area Water Forum (BAWF), a meeting of the Bay Area Water Forum on April 23rd at the State building in downtown Oakland. He indicated that there will be a workshop sponsored by the BAWF that will deal with the implementation of the Ahwahnee Water Resource Principles. Invitations were sent out electronically and will continue to be sent to request the attendance of the RPC.

Mark Green: As part of his report, Chairman Green provided an overview of the County-wide outreach meetings related to FOCUS. ABAG is in the process of visiting all 9 counties to promote the Focus program. They visited Alameda County a couple of weeks ago. 9 out of the 14 cities in Alameda County were represented at this meeting, showing a fairly strong interest and eagerness in participating in becoming a Priority Development Area (PDA).

B. Staff

Ken Kirkey: In his report, Mr. Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director, described that discussions have been positive at the county-level outreach meetings. There's been considerable interest on the part of jurisdictions to become PDAs. There's also been a lot of positive interest and discussion on the overall program and how it relates to conservation and development and directing future growth in the region.

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

5. Regional Transportation Program (RTP), Doug Kimsey MTC Planning Director

Doug covered the highlights of the memo included in the RPC packets. The RTP, which is updated every 4 years in the Bay Area, is MTC's investment strategy for the Bay Area for the next 20 years. The RTP is the long range transportation plan that sets forth that investment or strategy over that long range period. There are some stipulations with the RTP put forth by the federal agencies, indicating that the RTP needs to be financially constrained, meaning that the revenues that we reasonably expect to be made available in the region, match the costs.

However, MTC is allowed to go beyond the financially constrained vision call and consider a whole range of projects and identify new revenues that we think may be available beyond the expected revenues to define that vision. Mr. Kimsey stated that the financially constrained plan is basically a maintenance plan, with 80% of the revenues identified for the last RTP dedicated towards maintaining and operating existing transportation systems. The remaining 20% were for operational kinds of improvements, transportation efficiencies and about 10% of it was available for expansion. Basically MTC is maintaining and operating existing transportation systems. Through this RTP update, MTC will be updating the 20/30 plan for 2009. MTC's next plan adoption will be February 2009. MTC will first work with ABAG and the JPC and define the regional vision from not only the transportation side, but from a land use perspective side as well. MTC is required to use ABAG Projections by law. MTC runs an environmental assessment as well. A central focus of this RTP update is to develop the land use vision, integrating as much as possible the FOCUS effort being led by ABAG. MTC is conducting this update differently than in the past. MTC wants to create a regional vision through local input.

The update will be an 18-month effort. MTC is in its brainstorming stage from January – April 2007. MTC will have a summit near the end of 2007 with a public gathering with opportunity to comment. Phase 2 will be the development of vision in Feb 2008. Draft RTP available by September 2008, adoption of the plan in Feb 2009.

Ted Droetboom, JPC - Distributed a chart that compares RTP expenditures across the four major regions of CA, and their respective regional agencies; MTC, SCAG, SANDAG and SACOG. This chart points out that region's make choices about where they spend their transportation dollars. Mr. Droetboom stated that the RTP is about making policy choices, and that there is a huge potential in this next RTP to begin making some consequential policy choices. Although there are large maintenance expenditures, it is not enough relative to this region's needs. Priorities have to be established. One idea would be to prioritize those areas that agree to

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

take on more housing, more population and will be changing faster than other areas in concordance with the regional smart growth policy.

Members commented regarding the overlay of this process and the federal level. Some stated that the RPC appreciates the opportunity to comment early in the RTP process. A number of members indicated that MTC should factor climate change into the planning process in the Bay Area. Members challenge MTC to look at the current RTP expenditures and determine if those expenditures were geared towards areas that have had more growth. Concerns were raised that the RTP will lead the Bay Area in the wrong direction towards reducing mobile emission, CO2 emissions and the global warming impact.

6. FOCUSING OUR VISION (FOCUS) Priority Conservation Areas and GreenVision, Jackie Guzman, ABAG Regional Planner

Ms. Guzman provided the RPC with an update on the FOCUS program, a joint planning effort between ABAG, MTC and BAAQMD. The FOCUS is about developing a regional consensus on priorities for where growth can be best directed and also where growth may not be particularly well suited given local and regional goals for future development and conservation. She described the conservation planning aspect of the program, an overview of a parallel regional open space protection effort called Green Vision led by the Bay Area Open Space Council and Greenbelt Alliance. Ms. Guzman further described why and how staff sees Green Vision informing FOCUS PCAs and why a PCA plan may benefit this region, particularly given state bond money.

Jake McKenzie – Provided history about the Green Vision formed by collaborating efforts with Greenbelt Alliance, Bay Area Open Space Council, and ABAG. The formation of the Green Vision steering committee, consisting of members of the board of directors from Greenbelt Alliance, Coastal Conservancy, major representation from open space districts and entities throughout the area. Green Vision dedicated to realizing this vision.

Tom Steinbach – Mr. Steinbach described that Green Vision is attempting to layout a plan to ensure that the Bay Area retains the qualities related to why people love to live in the Bay Area including open space, natural beauty and the relationship of urban areas to open space. A key piece is to understand which lands ought to remain as open, and which ones we can see development on. He stated that the Green Vision effort has tried to set out to establish that vision. Partnering with ABAG has brought a tremendous amount to the process of laying out a vision for open space protection for the future. The process so far has been to 1) Build a core

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

group who can layout to go after articulating a vision. Process has been fairly simple, involving visiting each county, sitting down and talking with people who are involved in or interested in open space protection. 2) Creating a single regional map according to information collected from the county meetings and 3) generate a strategy on how to obtain that vision.

Jackie Guzman – County-wide Green Vision meetings have been an innovative process. Attendees are being asked, given what's already protected, and looking ahead, what areas still needs to be protected. Following those meetings, Green Vision will begin to look at and analyze the data, then continue to develop an implementation strategy around funding and priorities.

Two policy questions posed to the RPC members:

- How should state bond money related to urban and housing related parks be spent to make the most of limited funds?
- How can ABAG help local governments address park maintenance issues, particularly in urbanized areas?

Members expressed the importance of open space to maintain quality of life. Members suggested that the plan be taken to all city councils prior to being adopted at the Fall GA. Some members expressed concern about the end result and the inadequate funds to do all that is required.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM. The next meeting is on April 4, 2007.

Submitted by:

Felila Toleafoa
Administrative Assistant